REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion and in view of the present amendment, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 13 and 26 are amended.

The Applicant is appreciative of the indication by the Examiner, in the brief interview of April 1, 2008, that removing the phrase "at least one of" from the phrase of "receiving at least one of the first and the second image data," for example, in the independent claims would therefore clarify that the method "<u>selectively</u> output[s] at least one of the first and the second image data."

I.   Objection to the Claims

In the Office Action, at page 3, numbered paragraph 6, claim 33 was objected to. Claim 33, and in addition claim 34, are amended in light of the Examiner's comments, and accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.

II.   Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, at page 4, numbered paragraph 8, claims 1, 4, 6-8, 11-13, 16, 18-20, 23, 25-30, and 32-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by GB Patent No. 2371386 to Hewitt. This rejection is respectfully traversed because Hewitt does not discuss or suggest:

> receiving the first and the second image data and <u>selectively</u>
> outputting at least one of the received first and second image data
> to the color image forming engine via an image data controller
> disposed within the first image processor,

as recited in amended independent claim 1.

GB '386 discusses a host/client computer 12 in communication with an imaging device 14. The host 12 includes a printer driver 36 and a RIP engine 22. The imaging device 14 includes a formatter 24, which includes language firmware 46 and language firmware 48. GB '386 discusses that data path DP1 transfers print data from host computer 12 to printer 14, essentially sending high-level printer language (PDL) from printer driver 36 to the printer formatter 24. GB '386 also discusses that, alternatively, data path DP2 transfers processed, i.e., RIPped, HRB print data <u>directly to the hardware ready firmware 56 and the print engine 26.</u>

GB '386 further discusses that the RIP control module determines whether or not the PDL file should be RIPped at the host computer 12 or at the imaging device 14. If the PDL file should be RIPped at the host computer 12, the PDL file is passed to the host computer RIP engine 22, converted to a hardware ready bits (HRB) format, then is passed <u>directly via the hardware ready firmware 56 to the print engine 26 to be printed</u>. If the PDL file should be RIPped at the imaging device 14, the print job PDL file is passed directly from the printer driver 36 to be transmitted to the imaging device 14, passed to the printer formatter 24 to be RIPed to a HRB format, and then passed to the print engine 26 to be printed.

First, GB '386 does not discuss or suggest that the first or the second image data are received at the image data controller <u>disposed within the first image processor</u>. The Examiner alleges that the formatter 24 of the imaging device 14 corresponds to the first image processor and that the language firmware 48, which is located within the formatter 24, corresponds with an image data controller that is disposed within the first image processor to output data received at the image data controller. GB '386 discusses that image data <u>at the imaging device 14</u> is image-processed by the formatter 24, but that image data that was image-processed at the host 12, is inputted <u>directly to the hardware ready firmware 56</u> to be passed to the print engine 26. However, the image data that is processed <u>at the host 12</u> is not received via an image data controller <u>disposed within</u> a first image processor.

The Examiner alleges, in GB '386, only that first image data is received at the formatter 24 and that an internal formatter/converter apparatus 48 is disposed within the formatter 24, alleged to correspond with the first image processor. However, the internal formatter/converter apparatus 48 does not receive both first and second image data and then **selectively** outputs at least one of the received first and second image data. "Selectively outputting" one of two types of image data requires that the unit used to output the data is capable of outputting <u>both</u> the first and the second data, however, separately. "Selectively outputting" is distinct, then, from "outputting one of the received first and second image data." Thus, as here, the internal formatter/converter apparatus 48, which is located within the formatter 24, may be able to output the first image data image-processed by the formatter 24 disposed within the imaging device 14, but the internal formatter/converter apparatus 48 is not able to output second image data image-processed by the RIP engine 22 <u>disposed outside</u> the imaging device 14. Therefore, while the internal formatter/converter apparatus 48 receives one of the first and the second image data, the internal formatter/converter apparatus 48 does not receive the first <u>and the second image</u>

data, and the internal formatter/converter apparatus 48 does not **selectively output** at least one of the received first and the second image data to the print engine 26.

Therefore, as GB '386 does not discuss or suggest "receiving the first and the second image data and selectively outputting at least one of the received first and second image data to the color image forming engine via an image data controller disposed within the first image processor," as recited in amended independent claim 1, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the reference relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

Further, GB '386 does not discuss or suggest "an image data controller disposed within the first image processor and which receives the first and second image data and which selectively outputs at least one of the first and second image data to the color image forming engine," as recited in amended independent claim 13, claim 13 patentably distinguishes over the reference relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

Also, GB '386 does not discuss or suggest "an image data controller disposed in a first image processor that includes the first image data generator and which receives the first and the second image data, and selectively outputs the first and the second image data; and a color image forming engine which receives the first and the second data from the image data controller and which is disposed in the color image forming apparatus," as recited in amended independent claim 26, claim 26 patentably distinguishes over the reference relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 16, 18-20, 23, 25, 27-30 and 32-34 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1, 13 and 26 and include all the features of their respective independent claims, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the reference relied upon. For example, claim 4 recites that "the first image processor is slower than the second image processor." Therefore, claims 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 16, 18-20, 23, 25, 27-30 and 32-34 patentably distinguish over the reference relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

III.   Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, at pages 6-11, numbered paragraphs 10-15, claims 2, 3, 5, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17, 21, 22, 24, 26, 27, 29-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over various combination of GB '386, U.S. Patent No. 5,600,804 to Ip, U.S.

Publication No. 2004/0061892 to Ferlitsch, U.S. Patent No. 5,699,492 to Karaki, U.S. Patent No. 5,681,642 to Sugisaki et al., and U.S. Patent No. 7,242,492 to Currans et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, GB '386 does not discuss or suggest all the features of independent claims 1, 13 and 26. Ip, Ferlitsch, Karaki, Sugisaki and Currans fail to make up for the deficiencies in GB '386. Therefore, claims 1, 13 and 26 patentably distinguish over the references relied upon.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17, 21, 22, 24, 26, 27, 29-34 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1, 13 and 26 and include all the features of their respective independent claims, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the reference relied upon. For example, claim 2 recites that "the second image processor is a system expansion card which is insertable into the host computer." Therefore, claims 2, 3, 5, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17, 21, 22, 24, 26, 27, 29-34 patentably distinguish over the reference relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 13 and 26 have been amended. Claims 1-10, 12-22, 24-27 and 29-34 are pending and under consideration.
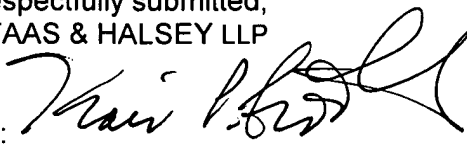
There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,
STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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